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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

20 DEC 1966

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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The Honorable Charles L. Schultze
Director, Bureau of the Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Charlie:

Following our 12 December meeting and after examination
of the draft memorandum to the President which you handed me
on 16 December, I asked my staff to review the problems involved
in making the transition from the A-12 to the SR-71. In the process
of this review, which is still in progress, new information of
considerable significance has been brought to my attention. In
particular, this involved data pertaining to SR-71 altitude and range
performance which, when compared to the proven capability of the
A-12, is of real concern to me in attempting to relate the performance
of the SR-71 to my missions.   25X1

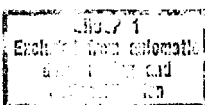25X1   In view of the
above, I am reconsidering my previous position and feel that I need
additional time to sort out and further verify the facts and examine in
detail comparative mission performance characteristics of the two
aircraft.

I appreciate the urgency in getting this problem resolved
but I am impelled to reassure myself on all aspects of the matter
before firming my views. I, therefore, propose that we meet after
1 January to review the pertinent facts and request you not forward a
memorandum to the President until after our meeting.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms

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2921-66
Page 2

25X1

Signature Recommended

Acting Deputy Director for Science and Technology   Date .

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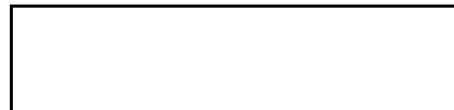   #12 - D/SA
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